

In the Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

6. (Previously amended) A biopsy instrument comprising:

a base assembly comprising a firing mechanism;

a probe assembly detachably mounted to said base, said probe assembly comprising:

a cutter assembly comprising:

a cutter rotatable about its longitudinal axis; and

a piercer assembly comprising:

a piercer having a tissue piercing tip and a side tissue receiving port spaced proximally from the tip, the piercer adapted to be carried distally toward a target by operation of the firing mechanism;

and;

a transmission disposed proximally of the piercer, wherein the transmission is operable to provide motion of the cutter, wherein the transmission receives rotary motion about an axis angled with respect to the cutter's longitudinal axis.

7. (previously amended). A medical device comprising:

a biopsy instrument and a source of rotary motion separate from the biopsy instrument;

the biopsy instrument comprising a base, a probe assembly, and a transmission;

the base including a firing mechanism;

the probe assembly detachably mounted to said base, said probe assembly comprising:

a cutter assembly comprising:

a cutter having a longitudinal axis;

a gear mechanism adapted to move said cutter;

a piercer assembly comprising:

a piercer including a cutter lumen adapted to receive said cutter, a closed distal tip, and a tissue receiving port spaced proximally of the closed distal tip ;

a probe mount adapted to slideably connect said piercer to said cutter assembly; and

the transmission operative to receive rotary motion about an axis angled with respect to the cutter longitudinal axis from the external source of rotary motion and transmit rotary motion to the cutter assembly gear mechanism.

8 -13 (Withdrawn)

14. (New). A medical device comprising:

a biopsy instrument; and

a source of motion separate from the biopsy instrument;

the biopsy instrument comprising;

a housing;

a piercer extending distally from the housing and the piercer having a closed distal end and a tissue receiving port spaced proximally of the closed distal end, the piercer supported with respect to the housing for firing of the piercer into tissue;

at least one spring operatively associated with the piercer for firing the piercer into tissue,

a cutter rotatable and translatable with respect to the tissue receiving port of the piercer, the cutter having a longitudinal axis; and

a transmission;

wherein the biopsy instrument receives at least one input from the separate source of motion along an axis angled with respect to the longitudinal axis of the cutter, and wherein the transmission converts the input to rotary motion of the cutter.

15. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 14 wherein the transmission comprises at least one gear.

16. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 15 wherein the transmission comprises at least one bevel gear.

17. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 14 wherein biopsy instrument receives an input from the separate source of motion through an elongate member.

18. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 17 wherein the elongate member comprises a drive cable.

19. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 14 wherein the biopsy instrument receives a first input for translating the cutter from the separate source of motion through a first elongate member, and wherein the biopsy instrument receives a second input for rotating the cutter from the separate source of motion through a second elongate member.

20. (New) The biopsy instrument of Claim 14 wherein the separate source of motion is disposed in a control unit, and wherein the biopsy instrument receives input from the source of motion through a translation shaft comprising a flexible cable, and from a rotation shaft comprising a flexible cable.